



## Homelessness Update

### 1. Emergency Accommodation Provision - Families Experiencing Homelessness

The number of families in emergency accommodation, including hotels / B&Bs and other homeless accommodation, for January and February 18 is detailed in Table 1. Whilst there is an overall increase in the number of families accessing Emergency Accommodation, significant progress has been achieved in moving families from hotels / B&Bs to Family Hubs, currently there are 333 families residing in Hubs across the Dublin Region.

The DRHE in conjunction with the other Dublin Authorities increased the number of family hub type facilities in the Dublin Region to seventeen. The full utilisation of these family hubs provides more appropriate and suitable accommodation for families, with a range of support services including cooking facilities, meals on site, play space, laundry facilities, communal recreation space, key-working and homework clubs.

The DRHE recognises that this is not the long term solution. However in the interim, family hubs provide accommodation that is specifically designed for more optimal family living, until families can move into more permanent housing provided under social housing supports, once supply becomes available. A list of the family hubs in the Dublin Region is detailed in Appendix A.

**Table 1: Number of families in EA for Jan 18 & Feb 18**

	Jan 18	Feb 18
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>1,329</b>

#### ***1.1 Families entering homelessness in 2018***

In January and February 2018, there were a total of 340 families who were assessed and accepted as homeless. Of this number, 211 families were new to homeless services and had never presented before.

There is a consistent pattern of families who may be deferring presentation to homeless services over the Christmas period as low numbers in December are followed by a peak in January / February.

### ***1.2 Families exiting from Hotels / B&Bs in 2018***

As referred to earlier, work continues in 2018 to reduce the duration of time families spent in commercial facilities. Thus far in 2018, 288 families moved from hotels / B&Bs to either Supported Temporary Accommodation or tenancies. Currently 70% of families are spending less than twelve months in private emergency accommodation.

## **2. Exiting Homelessness - Tenancies created in January and February 2018 for people experiencing homelessness**

In January and February a total of 459 tenancies were secured, families (291) and singles (168). HAP tenancies account for 338 and 121 were social housing allocations. Of the 459 tenancies created, a total of 215 households left emergency accommodation to take up tenancies, while 244 households were assisted and prevented from entering emergency accommodation.

It is important to note that in 2017 the number of additional emergency accommodation units needed for families increased by only 9%, this is a dramatic decrease compare to a 51% increase in 2016 and a 106% increase in 2015. This significant shift in the trend can be directly attributed to the work being carried out exiting families out of homelessness to tenancies, particularly HAP. In this context the overall HAP scheme has been very successful in exiting families from homelessness, with an average of 90 HAP tenancies created for families per month. Consequently the overall net increase of families in homelessness in the Dublin Region is stabilising.

## **3. Prevention**

The Prevention team continues to engage with families and singles who are seeking homeless accommodation to explore options to prevent them from entering homelessness. Additionally, the Placefinders Team continue to source HAP tenancies in the Dublin Region. In January and February 2018 a total of 244 households were prevented from entering emergency accommodation and re-housed in 2018:- 144 families and 100 singles.

Throughout 2018, prevention will continue to be a priority for the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and we will strive to make more progress on the number of preventions realised in 2017.

#### **4. Emergency Accommodation Usage in the Dublin Region 2018 – Singles**

The DRHE is fully cognisant of the potential impact of severe weather to people who are rough sleeping and every possible effort was made in 2017 and on into 2018 to ensure that there is adequate emergency accommodation provision for those that seek it and every effort is made to ensure that no person is forced to sleep rough. In 2017 capacity was expanded by 218 permanent bed spaces with an additional 50+ temporary bed spaces available for the winter period.

The number of singles able to access emergency accommodation has been steadily increasing from 1,195 in October 2017 to 2,261 in January 2018. This increase can be directly attributed to the increase in accommodation provision for singles as outlined above. Consequently the number of people sleeping rough is decreasing. This was evidenced throughout the Christmas and New Year period when there was spare capacity in emergency accommodation and anyone that looked for accommodation was facilitated.

However, the requirement for further expansion of emergency accommodation continues to be reviewed and with the continuation of new persons being assessed as homeless, it is likely that further accommodation options will be developed. So far in 2018, 58 additional permanent bed spaces have become operational.

#### **5. Allocations and Transfers – Homeless**

- **Housing and Transfer Waiting List:**

The number of Active Homeless Priority cases for March 2018 was 2,423; an increase of 115 or 5% on the February figure of 2,308. Homeless Applicants now account for 12.5% of all Housing Applications an increase from February 2018 of 0.5%.

- **Housing & Transfer Lettings:**

A total of 182 lettings were made in January and February not including Mortgage to Rent, RAS or HAP.

- Housing List – 58%
- Transfer List – 42%
- Lettings to homeless families and singles represented 24% of overall housing and transfer lettings or 41% of all housing lettings.

#### **6. Reasons for family homelessness January 2018**

In January 2018, a total of 109 families were accommodated in emergency accommodation (EA) in the Dublin Region who had no active or previous record in homeless services, i.e. they were 'new' to homeless services. .

A review of the initial assessments conducted with these families upon their presentation reveals two primary reasons for homelessness: (i) leaving private rented accommodation on foot of a Notice to Quit (NTQ) and (ii) leaving family or friends' accommodation due to relationship breakdown or overcrowding. A small number of families reported other reasons for their presentation to homelessness.

Data was available for 102 of the 109 families and the overall breakdown for January 2018 reasons for family homelessness is as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- **48%** of families (n=49) stated that the primary reason for their experience of homelessness related to a loss or inability to secure private rented accommodation.
- **47%** of families (n=48) stated the primary reason for their homelessness was due to family circumstances including: overcrowding living situations; relationship breakdown; and general family circumstances.
- **5%** of families (n=5) left their accommodation for other reasons including no income source, victim of anti-social behaviour, etc.

Link to reports- <http://www.homelessdublin.ie/publications>

## **7. Analysis of engagement with people sleeping rough during recent Severe Weather Event**

The Housing First Intake team, which is funded by the DRHE, works with our Central Placement Service and the HSE funded Safety Net service to provide accommodation options, street level healthcare and prioritisation for accommodation under the Housing First programme.

The work of the Housing First Intake teams was vital during the most recent severe weather event. The DRHE in conjunction with the Peter McVerry Trust undertook a detailed analysis of the people that accessed emergency shelter in St. Catherine's Sports Hall during this period. Importantly, this unprecedented event provided the opportunity to engage with those service users that are generally reluctant to come into services for whatever reason. Subsequently many remained in emergency accommodation and were able to access relevant supports to address their specific needs. The main findings are set out below.

### **• Profile of Service Users**

A total of 177 unique individuals were accommodated in the facility during the period of operation, of which 99 were non-Irish nationals.

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<sup>1</sup> The information is gathered from administrative data that captures a single reasons for homelessness. In reality, the picture is often more complex. Qualitative research undertaken at the end of 2015 indicated that families leaving private rented accommodation may return to family and friends for a period of time before presenting to homeless services, therefore leading to a possible under-reporting of the number of families experiencing difficulties sustaining tenancies in the private rented sector.

- 78 Irish Nationals
- 64 European
- 29 Non European
- 6 Unknown

This detailed profile of nationality highlights the challenges faced by Homeless Services and emphasises the need for continued coordination and integration of multi agency efforts using a risk based approach to individuals both in homelessness and at risk of presenting as homeless.

- ***Presenting Issues***

Many of the service users presented with a range of needs underscoring the many complexities within homelessness. A number of service users presented with health related issues, complex physical and needs in relation to drug and / or alcohol use. In this context the DRHE has regularly been working with the HSE & TUSLA with regard to their services for those suffering from mental health and addictions.

- ***Move on to Emergency Accommodation***

Of the 177 individuals, 89 were supported to source further alternative accommodation (incl. 83 placed in emergency accommodation), 86 people did not return to services and 2 did not take up placements.

The challenge that faces us now is continuing the work of active engagement with people sleeping rough, particularly those that do not generally engage with services and ensuring that there is sufficient emergency accommodation for people sleeping rough, which requires a collaborative multi agency response.

**Eileen Gleeson**  
**Director of Dublin Region Homeless Executive**  
**29<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

## Appendix A

**Table 2 – Family Hubs operational in the Dublin Region**

	Location	Number of Units	Operator	Local Authority
1.	Mater Dei, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 9.	50	Crosscare	DCC
2.	Aisling House, 19/20 St. Lawrence's Road, Dublin 3.	11	Respond	DCC
3.	High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin 3.	34	Respond	DCC
4.	Hazel House, Glasnevin, D11	14	PMVT	DCC
5.	Brookfield Court, Rialto, Dublin 8.	4	PMVT	DCC
6.	Sarsfield House, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.	12	Novas	DCC
7.	Clonard Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12.	25	Salvation Army	DCC
8.	Bram Stoker, Clontarf, D. 3	25	PEA / Focus	DCC
9.	Anna Livia, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1.	38	PEA / Focus	DCC
10.	The Townhouse, Dublin 1	98	PEA / Focus	DCC
11.	Viking Lodge, Dublin 8.	30	PEA / Focus	DCC
12.	Chuan Álainn, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.	9	Respond	SDCC
13.	Abberley, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.	40	PEA / Focus	SDCC
14.	Malahide Road, Co. Dublin.	12	PMVT	Fingal
15.	Kylemore, Swords, Co. Dublin.	6	PMVT	Fingal
16.	Millmount, Dundrum, D. 14.	12	PEA / Focus	DLRCC
17.	Monkstown, Co. Dublin.	17	PMVT	DLRCC
<b>Total</b>		<b>437</b>		